

Dr. Walter Huber

PShR Inspection Judge

Family physician, photographer, journalist and Nebraska cowboy include only a few of the talents of Dr. Walter Huber. He is also a worldwide Shagya-Arabian ambassador, tirelessly traveling from the Americas to Eastern Europe to see any Shagya he can find. With Walter no one is a stranger for long.

Dr. Huber's bond with the Shagya-Arabian began as a young man when he was able to convince his family to stop at the famous Babolna Stud while on holiday. Historical photos often seen of Shagya XXXIX and O'Bajan XIII are from Dr. Huber's personal archives during this visit, and include one of Walter as young man riding the famous Shagya XXXIX, foreshadowing Walter's future as a major spokesperson for the breed. He remains well-known for his photos from atop a beautiful Shagya with the ears framing the scene.

The 1976 Shagya-Arabian stallion Shagal, bred by Ulla Nyegaard of the Barthahus Stud in Denmark, was purchased by Dr. Huber and became his personal companion, enjoying fox hunting, quadrilles and jumping. Shagal, honored as Shagya III in Babolna, was the 1986 European Champion Shagya Stallion. In 1985 Shagal was approved for breeding by the Trakehner Verband in Germany. The influence of Shagal can be found in several countries, culminating with his retirement at Myrtle Lodge in Ireland.

Today Dr. Huber owns the Shagya stallions Janus (Pamino x Janett by Amor) and Shagan (Shagal x ShyDr.a by Shagya XLIV); both have stood at Kabiuk State Stud in Bulgaria.

Shagan was the 1997 ISG European Champion Senior Shagya Stallion. In addition to his Shagya-Arabians, Walter has bred Shagya/Trakehner sporthorses. Pictured above is Dr. Huber riding Shaganah by Shagan.



Studying medicine in Munich and Saarbrücken, Dr. Huber has been a Family Physician since 1972 in Nonnenhorn, located on the picturesque Lake Constance. His beautiful wife Inge is also a physician and in 2012 their son joined Walter in his practice. Walter and Inge are the proud parents of four children and three (and counting) grandchildren.

As a member of the International Shagya Society Board of Directors and a respected judge, we are pleased to have Dr. Huber here at our first PShR inspection.

Svetlozar Kastchiev

PShR Inspection Judge

Svetlozar Kastchiev is not only the Stud Manager of the Kabiuk State Enterprise in Bulgaria, he is also a National Dressage champion (10 times!) and twice was the Balkan dressage champion. He is the President of the East Bulgarian Horse Association and the Bulgarian Sport Horse Association, which are full members of World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses. In addition, Mr. Kastchiev is a national Dressage and Jumping judge and a FEI Eventing judge.

The below picture is of Svetlo riding his East Bulgarian stallion Tarzan, Champions in dressage.



Mr. Kastchiev has been breeding Shagya-Arabian horses for over 20 years and has bred over 300 Shagya-Arabian foals for Kabiuk. Kabiuk is the only surviving state stud in Bulgaria, originally established in 1864 as a military stud for the Turkish army. In 2004 under the Livestock Husbandry Act, the Kabiuk State Stud and Stallion Depot became a company owned by the state and governed by the Ministry of Agriculture in Bulgaria. Its key activities are horse breeding and the state-funded preservation of indigenous cattle and sheep. Breeds of horses include the Shagya-Arabian, the Eastern Bulgarian Warmblood, Thoroughbred, purebred Arabians, Haflingers (used on the farm as work horses)

and Shetland ponies. The farm is 2832 hectares (6998 acres) of tillable crop land and lush pastures.

The Kabiuk State Enterprise is a leader in artificial insemination – Mr. Kastchiev is a key part of that success. His keen eye for genetics and his ability to breed one of the most successful bands of Shagya-Arabians led to the acceptance of the Kabiuk Stud as an ISG member in 1998. The dynamic 1988 Shagya-Arabian stallion Mefistofel (Metropol x Fregata by Fero), a result of Svetlo's first year as stud manager, is an example of crossing athletic purebred Arabian bloodlines (Negatiw, Priboj, Moment, Faruk) with historic Shagya bloodlines (Parabel, Dahoman XLV) to achieve a strong yet elegant sporthorse. According to the book "Origin and Development of Arabian and Shagya-Arabian Breeds in Bulgaria" by Assistant Professor Iliyana Sabeva, Mefistofel is considered by some West-European specialist as the best Shagya in Europe at this time. In addition, the Shagya-Arabian mare Mezinka SA, bred in Kabiuk, was named the 2007 Best Shagya mare in Denmark.

When visiting Kabiuk, it quickly becomes apparent Mr. Kastchiev has a natural eye, and is able to select up and coming youngsters with potential from the herd. We are fortunate and honored to have the lifelong horseman Svetlo Kastchiev join us for our first PShR inspection.